

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 /039 W

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R 051530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BL

SUBJECT: REPEATED BOLIVIAN REQUEST FOR HELP IN SELLING 1974 COTTON CROP

REF: LA PAZ 6912; STATE 247184

1. MININD/COMM GONZALES CALLED DCM TO MEETING AT MINISTRY (ECONOFF ALSO PRESENT) TO ASK HELP IN DISPOSING OF REMAINING 30,000 BALES OF 1974 COTTON CROP. MINISTER BEGAN BY NOTING YPFB WILL SIGN \$90 MILLION REFINERY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH US FIRM (MCKEE) ON FEBRUARY 5 AND THAT IN VIEW OF STRONG AND STRENGTHENING COMMERCIAL TIES WITH US, BOLIVIA WISHED FOR US ASSISTANCE IN FINDING BUYERS FOR LEFTOVER BOLIVIAN COTTON WHICH NOW DETERIORATING DUE TO LACK OF ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES AND LONG DELAY. (FONMIN GUZMAN MADE SIMILAR APPEAL TO AMBASSADOR BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR SANTA CRUZ ON FEBRUARY 3.).

2. GONZALES REFERRED TO "BLOCKADE" OF BOLIVIAN COTTON BY COOK AND RALLI IN 1973 AND STATED THAT EPISODE STILL OBSTACLE TO BOLIVIAN COTTON EXPORTS.

ECONOFF REFERRED TO REQUEST FOR HELP AND US RESPONSE
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(REFTELS) LAST OCTOBER, RECALLING ESPECIALLY THAT TRADE

IN US HAD STATED BOLIVIA NOT BLACK-LISTED AND THAT DIFFICULTY WAS LACK OF DEMAND FOR COTTON EVEN AT THEN LOW PRICES. MINISTER RESPONDED HE UNDERSTOOD SITUATION AND THAT HIS MINISTRY INTENDS EXERCISE CAREFUL CONTROL OVER ADEPA SALES AND TRANSPORT CONTRACTS AND OPERATIONS IN GENERAL TO ENSURE THAT ADEPA CONDUCTS ITSELF IN "SERIOUS" MANNERS TO REHABILITATE BOLIVIA'S REPUTATION IN WORLD COTTON MARKET.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS PROBLEM HAS GROWING IMPORTANCE FOR US - BOLIVIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. ITS SOLUTION MIGHT ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE BOLIVIAN ATTITUDES ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TRADE ISSUES. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, REQUESTS DEPARTMENT AGAIN CHECK WITH COOK AND AMERICAN COTTON SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION TO SEE WHETHER ANY US FIRMS NOW HAVE INTEREST IN BUYING REMAINING BOLIVIAN COTTON. EMBASSY SEEKING NEGOTIATING PRICE THROUGH MININD/COM, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT ANY PRICE QUOTATION SUBJECT TO INSPECTION COTTON AND TERMS OF SALES CONTRACT.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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